

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, March 16, 1995

Published Since 1877

Assault rifle, gospel prove useful for missionary to Kurds

WESTLAKE, Texas (ABP) — Missionary Robert Anderson wears an AK-47 assault rifle over his shoulder. That might attract attention on most mission fields, but Anderson does it to blend in among the Kurds of northern Iraq.

For most male Kurds, a rifle or other weapon is standard attire,

Anderson said. The Kurds live in a "combat zone," under constant threat from Iraq's Saddam Hussein, Anderson said.

The Kurds, numbering an estimated 20 million, are the largest ethnic group in the world with no country of their own. Kurdistan, their rugged, mountainous home-

land, spans the borders of five countries — Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and the former Soviet republic of Armenia — and has been the prize in a tug of war among nations that dates to 550 B.C. The history of the Kurds, known as the Medes in the Bible, is marred by oppression, most recently by Hussein after Iraq lost the Gulf War.

In this harsh setting, Robert and Roni Anderson are credited with gaining a foothold for the Christian gospel in a predominantly Muslim region.

Robert Anderson first visited Kurdistan in 1992, drilling water wells as a mission volunteer for the Foreign Mission Board. His crew was drilling next to an orphanage, he recalled. "Actually, it was a former prison where orphans of prisoners had taken up residence in the last place they had seen their parents alive," he said. "They were eating out of garbage cans."

He telephoned his wife in the U.S. "He said, 'There are so many orphans over here who need some love,'" Roni recalled. "So I went over on the next plane. We were there a month and we knew that's where the Lord wants us."

For the past three years, the Andersons have been working as independent missionaries through their own relief organization, Concern for the Kurds. On Feb. 15 they were among 12 people appointed missionaries by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in a ceremony in Westlake, Texas.

Several FMB trustees, impressed with the Andersons' work, encouraged the FMB to appoint the Andersons. But both Robert and Roni have been divorced, which automatically excludes them from FMB

appointment. The FMB grooms its own missionaries through a lengthy appointment process, and does not typically take on established missionaries that have made their own way.

"I am very impressed with Robert and Roni," said Jerry Rankin, who met with the Andersons last November. "There's no question God has called them to work there.... I don't think there is any conflict with (FMB) strategy.... But they would not be able to be appointed by the Foreign Mission Board."

Keith Parks, mission coordinator for the Fellowship, acknowledges the Andersons are "a bundle of paradoxes, but our (global missions) committee was just enamored with them. Our position is they are out doing something, and we want to help them do more." With Fellowship support, Parks said, the couple can focus on their work overseas rather than spending up to a third of their time in the States raising money.

Parks said the appointment of the Andersons, and several other non-traditional missionaries, demonstrates the versatility of the Fellowship's approach to global missions. Most of the 12 are laypeople; only half have any seminary training. Several are divorced. Eleven speak a second language. All 12 are already involved in missions, but only one couple was previously appointed by the FMB.

Other CBF missionaries appointed in the Feb. 15 ceremony:

— Kelly and Susan Mulheren of Nashua, N.H., taught themselves Russian while working as volunteers with Russian Baptist immigrants in Maine, New Hamp-

shire, and Massachusetts. They will coordinate the Fellowship's mission strategy for reaching the Chechen people in the Caucasus region of Russia. Kelly, 39, is from Marlinton, W.Va. Susan, 38, is from Richmond.

— Kirk and Suzanne Person have been assigned to work with Wycliffe Bible Translators to translate scripture into the languages of the Sino-Tibetan people. The couple met and married while both worked in a college in Lampang, Thailand. Kirk, 27, is from Loveland, Colo. Suzanne, 26, is pursuing master's degrees in linguistics and missiology.

— Jay and Anita Lynn were commissioned for a two-year assignment teaching English as a second language in Litomerice, the Czech Republic. Jay, 27, is from Richmond, Va. Anita, 25, is from Dover, Del.

— Lonnie and Frances Turner, FMB missionaries to Zambia for 19 years, were appointed to work with the international diplomatic and business community in Brussels, Belgium. Both are 46 and from Harlan, Ky.

— Mary Buzhardt, 37, will work with students and youths in Albania. A frequent foreign missions volunteer, Buzhardt has been minister of education at First Church, Walterboro, S.C., since 1986.

— Nomie Derani, a 43-year-old Lebanese native, will work with Arab immigrants in Dearborn, Mich. She currently works as a volunteer in an Arab-American Friendship Center there. Derani, whose mother was a ceremonial Koran reader in Lebanon, was led to Christ by Messianic Jews in Colorado.

'Biteth like a serpent'

(Proverbs 23:31-32)



Observe Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday
 March 19, 1995

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
 of the Southern Baptist Convention

Inside...



Mississippi Baptists will celebrate 50 years of organized church music in the state at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton. Turn to page 5 for details.

Seven for seven

It's going to be hard to top the "Here's Hope. Jesus Cares for You." results at Providence Church in Franklin, Ky.: seven converts in the first seven days. "Everything we do is geared toward winning somebody to Christ," said pastor Steve Curtis. The church eschewed "Here's Hope." commitment cards in favor of action geared toward the community's unchurched, Curtis explained. Members sponsored a Super Bowl party in January. On "Telephone Sunday," members call at least five people to share their faith. Sunday School teachers are redoubling efforts to contact prospects. Teen church members are an important part of the campaign, hosting a recent lock-in where more than half of the teenagers were not Christians. Teen pizza parties are in the works, too. Curtis said the church, which averages 200 in Bible study each week, plans to baptize at least 20 people during the "Here's Hope." campaign. Not bad for a church that averaged 42 people in Sunday School just a few years ago.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

First Church, McComb, announces that members will help build a new church in the Sawhill Road area of Columbus, Ohio, where 30,000 people live without a single Southern Baptist church nearby.

20 years ago

Southern Baptist Convention second vice-president Charles King, 79, a West Point native and the first African-American to serve as a national SBC officer, dies after suffering a stroke at his home in Frankfort, Ky.

50 years ago

The U.S. government notifies the superintendent of the Baptist Orphanage, W.G. Mize Sr., that his son, W.G. Jr., long thought to be a prisoner of war somewhere in Germany, has been released and is on his way home.

Thursday, March 16, 1995



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Is the front porch culture gone?

For more than a century the social and family life of Dixie was built around the front porch. Rocking chairs, a creaking swing, little tables for ice tea, even an old church pew comprised the decor that spelled fellowship. There was an openness about the front porch. It spoke to the neighborhood and said, "Y'all come over; we are home now. We are available to talk. We have time for you." All windows were raised, the doors were open, and the dogs were run under the porch.

My grandfather had a long front porch, my parents had one, and we spent a lot of time on the porch — except they called it the "gallery" then. Peas could be shelled there, corn shucked — there, we could wave at everyone who passed by. "Y'all get out, 'n set a spell" was heard often. In the early part of my life we even had a water bucket and the "good" dipper reserved for the front porch.

Today the front porch is seldom seen. Every window is down and locked, the doors are closed. In most cases, husband and wife are

working. In the afternoons, and on Saturday and Sunday, everything is closed, locked, and usually the carport is closed.

These signs also send a message to the community: "We are not at home and if we are at home, don't bother us. If you have nothing to do, don't do it here." We hardly get to know the people next door. The anonymity of the community is to be maintained. Be careful when you walk up. Security alarms can be tripped and flood lights are geared to movement.

U.S. News & World Report (March 6, 1995 issue) calls this phenomenon "our identity crisis." These are reported to be angry times when the old forms of public discourse are vanishing. Moreover, people are troubled by the "mean-spiritedness" of modern debate over issues that center on American values. Americans supposedly are angrily brooding about the value conflicts these changes have created. It's difficult to shake hands with a clenched fist.

Is the front porch culture dead? Some say air conditioning killed it

"Biteth like a serpent..."

Observe Alcohol & Drug Abuse Prevention Sunday, March 19

By Lamar Cooper

(Proverbs 23:31-32)

Alcohol, a legal drug in many communities, often is not considered to be in the same category as hard drugs. But alcohol is a mind-altering, physically damaging drug whose effects are just as destructive as illegal drugs.

In spite of this fact, the use of beverage alcohol has become increasingly more accepted. Unfortunately, some believers today mistakenly think the Bible condones, or at least does not prohibit, the use of beverage alcohol.

The Bible does not take a passive attitude toward the use of alcoholic beverages. Among those passages that warn against the use of alcohol, Proverbs 23:29-35 gives an extensive list of some of the negative side effects of alcohol use. The writer warns in verses 31 and 32 of the physical, psychological, and spiritual consequences of the use of alcohol as a beverage.

But what could be so bad about a drink that looks so good? As with many things in life, looks often are deceptive. One should not always trust looks and taste as a guide for what is good. Alcohol

is advertised as a "looks good, tastes good product." The phrase, "moveth itself aright" (v. 31) literally means "it goes down right" or as one translation puts it, "glides down smoothly." But what looks good and tastes good is not always good for you.

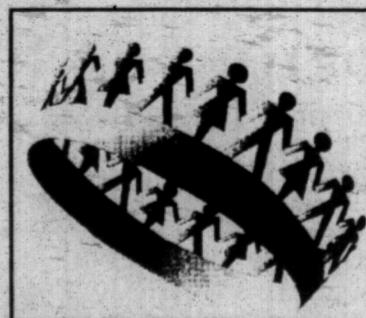
The deadly nature of alcohol is like the bite of a poisonous serpent. The discomforting bite only begins to portend the ominous consequences which will include severe physical trauma, perhaps even death (see vv. 29-35).

The analogy also has behind it the deception of the woman by the serpent in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-3). Through the serpent's lies about God's care for the human family, the "sting" of sin and death was introduced (1 Cor.

15:56). Adam and Eve were deceived by the serpent to believe the consequences of disobedience in God's warning (Gen. 3:3) would not happen to them. But they did!

Every believer should know that the Bible warns about the use of alcohol as a beverage. The idea that "it won't happen to me" or "I won't be affected" is another deception. The serpent's sting may be felt but ignored when you take that first drink. But the Bible clearly predicts the final outcome, "At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder" (v. 32). It can happen to you!

Cooper is director of denomination relations, seminars, and conferences for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.



WIN ALL

1995 Season of Home Missions

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
National Goal \$50 million

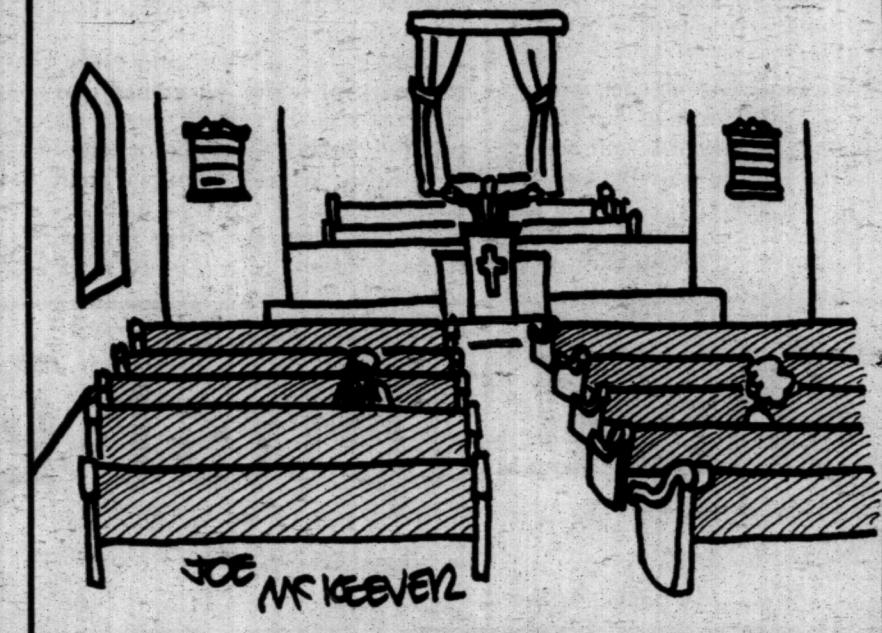
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"MY SERMON TODAY IS
ON COPING WITH
LONELINESS."



THE FRAGMENTS

The Prayer Room

A few months ago I arrived early at the church where I was to speak at the evening service. The only door unlocked was to the prayer room. It was quiet, inviting, and there was a small desk, chair, and a prayer rail. A sign by the lamp said, "The fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

The notebook listed the prayer requests and the answers. There was a bulletin board with missionaries' names and birthdays for that week. A Bible, hymnbook, calendar, and a box of tissues were on the desk. A request for confidentiality was also included on a number of requests.

A world map with pens, strings, and names of missionaries was attached to the wall. Personal notes were posted here and there on the map, with an occasional picture of a missionary. It was up to date and apparently used daily.

I thought of my church and the daily flow of traffic to the prayer room. The map brought visions of mission stations in a half-dozen countries around the world.

The notes requested someone to pray that D... would get a job, a son was leaving for military duty, "pray for my husband," a baby was sick — possible leukemia, L... has cancer, and the list went on.

I felt this was holy ground. Great spiritual battles had been fought there. I had no right to be there unless I had come to pray.

Those who had labored in this arena were the real soldiers of the cross. The needs were great, the opportunities boundless. Prayer, I realized, was more important than what I had come to do. Without prayer, the preaching would be weak and powerless.

Jesus said, "My house is to be a house of prayer." It is good to have designated places of prayer and to pray with alertness. Blessed is the church that provides the place and time for its members to pray. Churches and people who are bent on praying will see things happen. It is the greatest ministry of your church.

God attaches great importance to prayer. He holds the phone and will hear. He has not delegated this part to an angel, archangel, or a saint. He holds the line and will answer when you call.

I still burn over a statement made in a conference: "If you ever want to really embarrass someone, ask him how many minutes he prays each day." Is it a real possibility that we "have not because we ask not?" — GH

Southwestern revival spreads into surrounding community

FORT WORTH (BP) — Some faculty and administrators at Southwestern Seminary say the sudden outpour of confessions of sins at the seminary March 1 was characteristic of revivals at several educational institutions in the past 40 to 50 years.

They contrasted the March 1 occurrence to a similar revival Southwestern experienced in March 1970.

Roy Fish, distinguished professor of evangelism, and Jack Gray, professor of missions emeritus, said two commonalities are the widespread prayer and revival testimonies that encouraged them.

The March 1 revival followed

Howard Payne University students' testimonies in a few classes at Southwestern and some churches in the surrounding Fort Worth area.

In 1970, immediately preceding the campus revival, students from Asbury College and Asbury Seminary in Kentucky spoke on Asbury's spiritual renewal in several Southwestern classes and area churches.

According to Fish and Gray, seminary officials' assurance that students wouldn't be penalized for missing classes allowed more freedom in the March 1 revival than people in the 1970 revival had.

"Both revivals were public demonstrations of a mighty work

of God in the hearts of people, and both were expressions of conviction, confession, reconciliation, and miraculous conversions," Gray said.

One of Fish's evangelism classes Feb. 28 experienced what he said "had all of the marks of a revival. It was just a matter of Howard Payne students reporting the spiritual awakening on their campus and the students in my class responding to the Holy Spirit."

Some ministers of Fort Worth churches report their congregations have experienced or are close to experiencing great movements of God like the one

during the March 1 chapel at Southwestern.

Michael Dean, pastor of Travis Avenue Church in Fort Worth, also attended the March 1 chapel at Southwestern at Fish's invitation. Dean described the service as "a refreshing movement of the Lord. I genuinely sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit."

"For the last seven weeks, Travis Avenue Church has been experiencing the rumblings of a great movement of God," Dean said. "The March 1 chapel at Southwestern was a confirmation for me that God wants to do something great in Fort Worth."

The seminary's spiritual renewal March 1 followed Southwestern graduate John Avant's report of supernatural happenings in his Brownwood, Texas, church, Howard Payne University there, and the surrounding community. The Southwestern outpour started about 11 a.m. and lasted into the late evening. "God is shaking us — something no person could do," Avant said.

What happened at Southwestern was as unexplainable as what is happening in Brownwood, Avant said. "My hope was that

God wanted to use what he's doing at Howard Payne University in Brownwood in a deeper way.

"I thought my chapel message at Southwestern would be preparatory. I had no idea of the readiness for revival," Avant said.

Like several Southwestern students and other pastors who attended the March 1 chapel, Avant said he witnessed deep, gut-level, and spontaneous confessions of sins. "I saw a lot of brokenness and some genuine healing," he said. "I was amazed by the comradery among the students. Someone would share and immediately five or six people would stand around them and pray. One of the most moving experiences was when a white man admitted racism and two or three black guys almost carried him off the stage hugging him."

"There will always be those who are skeptical when there is a moving of the Spirit," seminary President Ken Hemphill said. "This can sometimes be compounded in an academic environment where we tend to analyze everything. You must rely on the inner witness of the Spirit and the confirmation of God's Word."

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, March 16, 1995

Published Since 1877

Lottie Moon offering tops \$85 mil — first time ever

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND (BP) — Southern Baptists gave \$85.5 million to their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions in 1994, according to projections released by the Foreign Mission Board March 10.

The projected record represents an increase of \$2.6 million, or 3.1%, from 1993, the biggest annual jump since 1988. It also represents the closest Southern Baptists have drawn to the offering goal since they last met it in 1981 with \$50.8 million.

"We praise God and are grateful to Southern Baptists for the significant increase," said Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin. "This affirms the priority of Southern Baptists to reach our world for Christ."

"Surpassing \$85 million will allow us to continue to make advances overseas," he added.

Still, the forecast indicates the offering will close out about a half million dollars below the goal, a source of some disappointment, Rankin said. If the forecast is accurate and the board follows the pattern of previous years, it will trim capital expenditures overseas

by the amount of the shortfall, said Carl Johnson, vice president for finance.

Southern Baptists actually close the books on the 1994 offering May 31. The March projection is based partly on information from the 14 largest state conventions.

Leaders at the Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood Commission, Southern Baptist organizations that promoted the offering in Southern Baptist churches, were pleased with the forecast.

"We knew when we set the goal it was an ambitious one, but certainly not beyond the reach of Southern Baptists," said Dellanna O'Brien, the WMU's executive director/treasurer. "I'm really pleased. It's great."

O'Brien also credited the convention's offering promotion team, WMU leaders in local churches, and state-level WMU workers who distribute material and set up special programming to educate churches about foreign missions.

This extensive network of motivated foreign missions supporters has been a key in the con-

tinued growth of the offering since the women's organization started it in 1888 to respond to needs in China.

"I rejoice in this response by Southern Baptists," said James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission. "Never before have we had greater opportunity to share the gospel than now. I'm confident we can count on our people to give sacrificially."

Except for declines of less than half a percent in 1992 and just more than 1% in 1990, the annual offering has shown a steady increase for nearly six decades.

About \$83.5 million of the 1994 offering will go to the board's overseas operating budget, which primarily provides missionary support. About \$2 million will provide for capital needs overseas, such as equipment, autos, and housing.

The offering, generally collected in church-wide intakes during December, was expected to fund nearly half (46%) of the Foreign Mission Board's 1995 budget of \$186 million. The other half of the budget is expected to come from Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, and other income, such as investments and hunger and relief receipts.

The 1995 offering goal will be \$100 million, requiring a 17% increase based on this year's forecast. Rankin noted a record number of missionaries were appointed last year (545), and 3,326 missionary candidates are working through the board's appointment process now.

Croll writes for FMB.

ACTS to carry Graham global mission

FORT WORTH (BP) — ACTS and FamilyNet will air the Billy Graham San Juan, Puerto Rico, Crusade. Broadcast via satellite technology, the crusade will be the most far-reaching evangelistic outreach in history. ACTS is the Radio and Television Commission cable television service that reaches into almost 23 million homes. FamilyNet is the RTVC broadcast television service that reaches into more than 65 million homes. ACTS will carry the crusade March 15 at 4 p.m., March 16 and 17 at 7 p.m., and March 18 at 5 p.m. (all Eastern Standard Time). The crusade will be transmitted to FamilyNet affiliates March 14-17 at 7 p.m. and March 18 at 5 p.m. (EST). Viewers should confirm local listings.



MBREA hosts LBREA

Marcus Peagler (left), of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and Joe Armour (right), of Clinton, pause to read *The Baptist Record* in the display area of the Holiday Inn in Vicksburg during the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Educators Association (MBREA). Peagler, Broadmoor's minister of education, serves the association as president; Armour, minister of education at Clinton's First Church, is vice president. The MBREA met jointly with its Louisiana counterpart March 2-4. More than 140 registered for the conference. (BR photo by Guy Henderson)

State gifts to Cooperative Program up from Feb. '94

Mississippi Baptists gave \$1,929,509 through the Cooperative Program in February, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which distributes the funds.

The 1995 total is \$4,069,176, which is \$190,966 more than that received in the first two months of 1994.

The 1995 total is also \$301,413, or 8% more than the pro rata amount of the budget which is \$22,606,579. The pro rata amount

is figured by dividing the total budget by 12 and multiplying by the number of months elapsed.

The Cooperative Program is the Southern Baptist method of voluntarily contributing to worldwide missionary support and Christian education system.

More than 7,000 missionaries receive their income from this system. The portion used by Mississippi Baptists includes child care, church leader training, and support for students in Baptist colleges.

Change in state WMU bylaws

The following change will be considered during the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) annual meeting to be held on March 21 at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo:

In Article VI, Nominations and Elections, of the state WMU bylaws, all references to "Nominating Committee" are recommended to be changed to "Officer Selection Committee."

WMU bylaws call for projected changes to be printed in two separate editions of *The Baptist Record* prior to the annual meeting.

Mississippi Acteens get SMACKed March 24-25 at Mississippi College

Acteens, Acteen leaders, and all girls in grades 7-12 are invited to attend 1995 Mississippi Acteens Convention March 24-25 in Swor Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus in Clinton.

The theme, "SMACK," deals with issues facing teenage girls in today's world:

S — Sometimes it gets lonely.
M — Maybe I'm not real.
A — Always I'm trying.
C — Can't tell others how I feel.
K — Keep me growing, God, keep me growing.

Program personalities include Alicia Williamson, concert artist who performed at the 1994 National Acteens Convention; Lloyd Allen of Mississippi College, author of *Gift Quest*, a teen's book on spiritual gifts; Susan Meadors, youth minister at Northside Church, Clinton; Nicki Burns, 1994 BSU student summer missionary; and others.

Girls and leaders will participate in Bible Study and hear missionaries describe their experiences on the mission field.

They will also be encouraged to creatively express how they feel about Acteens through posters, songs, or commercials; acquire communication skills through interactive games; and have an opportunity to reflect on what they learn in the conferences.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship holds getaway day for nurses

The Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) of Mississippi will conduct a "Getaway Day" for its members and any interested medical personnel on April 8 at the Baptist Student Union Center at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Guest speakers for the day Jones will be Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission, and Carolyn McAtee, Southern Baptist missionary nurse and leadership



Williamson

SMACK will begin with registration at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 24, and end with lunch at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 25. General sessions will be held in Swor Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus. Cost for SMACK is \$20.00 per person, which includes program fee and three meals.

Pre-registration deadline is March 22.

For more information or to receive a list of nearby motels, contact the Woman's Missionary Union at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free (800) 748-1651.

training consultant for the South Asia Pacific Itinerant Mission Team. Jones will speak on "Ethics of Nursing in the '90s;" McAtee will talk about medical missions opportunities.

Cost for the day is \$10 per person. Make checks payable to Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), designated for BNF Getaway. Mail to WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. For more information, call (800) 748-1651 or (601) 968-3800.



McAtee

BJC panel adopts statements on politics and school prayer

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Americans who promote their politics as "Christian" ought to ensure their "political methods measure up to that lofty label," the executive committee of a Baptist religious liberty agency declared March 6.

The Baptist Joint Committee — a Washington, D.C.-based agency comprising 11 national Baptist bodies — encouraged "all Americans of faith to play active and responsible roles in the political process."

The BJC's religion and politics statement said the constitutionally required separation of church and state "does not mean the separation of God and government nor the separation of religion and politics."

It reaffirmed the constitutional right and biblical mandate for Christians to be involved in the political process, but emphasized that such involvement must be responsible.

The statement urged Christians "to bring to the public square a full measure of integrity that reflects the high standards of our faith, shunning the hypocritical and

immoral politics of personal destruction and deception."

The statement decried such tactics as selling videos that level unfounded charges against public officials, distributing deceptive voter guides, and exaggerating the effects of policy proposals in a way that unduly alarms citizens.

"Such actions betray the high principles of our faith and diminish our nation's political process," the statement declared.

The statement was one of two unanimously adopted by the BJC panel. The second statement reaffirmed the agency's long-standing opposition to proposals to restore government-sponsored prayer to public schools.

In its statement on school prayer, the BJC panel said it shares the longing of many Americans for spiritual and moral revival, adding that society's spiritual rootlessness "must be addressed by a rededication of families and churches to prayer, religious education, and evangelism."

Schools should do their part to inculcate civic values such as honesty, courage, charity, and humility,

ty, the statement declared, but should not be empowered to lead or encourage religious exercises.

"Our opposition stems from the conviction that prayer is a holy act that government should not control," the statement said. "We reject the notion that government bureaucrats and public school teachers, who may not share our faith or any faith, should be entrusted or saddled with our children's spiritual formation."

Legislative proposals to restore "voluntary" prayer are unnecessary, the statement said, because the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled out only school-sponsored prayer.

"Students continue to enjoy the right of true religious expression in numerous ways in the public schools," the statement declared.

The BJC officials emphasized their belief in prayer and respect for the Constitution.

"Precisely because we believe in both, we do not want government telling our children when, where, and what to pray," the statement concluded. "Prayer should be left to churches, families, and students themselves."

Alaska partnership projects need volunteers for preaching, painting

The following ministry areas in Alaska need the help and participation of Mississippi Baptists, under the Mississippi/Alaska Partnership Project:

— Supply pastor, Whittier Mission in Whittier, June 1995 (four Sundays). Preach morning and evening services and conduct mid-week prayer meeting. Housing and automobile provided, but no stipend.

— Interim pastor, False Pass Mission on Unimak Island (Aleutian chain). Prefer six-month com-

mitment, but would consider shorter term. A pioneer mission opportunity for volunteer who can



pay own travel and serve without pay. Housing and transportation provided.

— Painters, Community Church in Nome. Exterior painting and replacement of handicap entrance ramp. Minimum time of one week. June is best month for painting in Nome.

For more information, contact the Partnership Missions office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free (800) 748-1651.

SBC agency head clarifies position on evangelical/Catholic agreement

RALEIGH, N.C. (ABP) — Evangelicals who last year signed a controversial accord with Roman Catholics have issued a clarification designed to mute some of the criticism the document received.

Among those signing onto the clarification was Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, one of two Southern Baptist Convention agency heads to sign the original "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" document last spring.

Both Land and the other SBC leader, Larry Lewis of the Home Mission Board, have been criticized for signing the statement, which some say embraces false doctrine and undermines evangelism efforts by banning "sheep-stealing" from Catholic churches.

Land reported to CLC trustees March 2 that he recently signed a

statement of "applicatory clarifications," drafted by three other signers of the evangelical/Catholic accord, intended to "prevent divisive misunderstandings of our beliefs and purposes."

The Protestant signers said their "para-church cooperation" with Catholics "in pursuit of agreed objectives does not imply acceptance of Roman Catholic doctrinal distinctives or endorsement of the Roman Catholic church system."

Some critics have said the document endorses a salvation by works, attained through the observance of Catholic sacraments. The signers, however, said they understood the document's statement that Christians are "justified by grace through faith because of Christ" to mean "substitutionary atonement and imputed righteousness of Christ, leading to full assurance of eternal salvation."

Other critics focused on language in the document calling Protestant and Catholic understandings different expressions of the same faith. The evangelicals' clarification reads: "While we view all who profess to be Christian — Protestant and Catholic and Orthodox — with charity and hope, our confidence that anyone is truly a brother or sister in Christ depends not only on the content of his or her confession but on our perceiving signs of regeneration in his or her life."

They acknowledged that they reject "proselytizing," defined in the evangelical/Catholic document as "sheep-stealing for denominational aggrandizement," but insisted that "evangelism and church planting are always legitimate, whatever forms of church life are present already."

Church Music Department reaches 50th anniversary

By William H. Perkins Jr.

"Mississippi Baptists have always been a singing people." Thus began **We Shall Come Rejoicing**, the exhaustive 1985 history of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music Department.

As music lovers around the state prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the department, that statement still rings true from the salty waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the city limits of Memphis — and everywhere in between.

On Sept. 15, 1945, Copiah County native Luther Andrew Harrison, 45, became the first full-time "secretary of church music" of the convention board. His salary of \$3,900 nearly matched his department budget of \$4,000.

Tragedy visited Harrison at the height of his career, however, when his car plunged into a Louisiana swamp on the night of March 6, 1948. He drowned just hours after graduating from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

Shortly after his death, the Mississippi Baptist Convention was notified that the state's churches were leading the Southern Baptist Convention in music schools conducted.

The convention board in December of that year asked William Claude Morgan, 48, an associate in the board's training union department, to add music work to his other duties. Morgan was promoted to full-time director of the church music department in December 1950.

Church music development in Mississippi became so expansive by the beginning of 1953 that it was added to a convention board promotion that stressed Sunday School, Training Union, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood as integral parts of every church.

By 1964, Morgan was seen across the Southern Baptist Convention as a leader in church music development. His constant promotion of church music as an important part of Southern Baptist life led to a special award from the National Conference of Southern Baptist Musicians.

That recognition was a fitting climax to the Morgan years, for the last in a series of heart attacks

claimed his life on March 13, 1964 — exactly one month after he accepted the award.

Harrison and Morgan cemented the importance of church music in Mississippi's Baptist churches. The pair established music as a vital means of worshipping God and teaching Christian truths, and they set the stage for even more explosive growth.

Enter Daniel Carter Hall, 36, a Wiggins native working in the church music department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

**Church Music Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
50th Anniversary
Celebration**
2-4:30 p.m., March 25, 1995
Morrison Heights Church
Clinton, Mississippi

Among Hall's first acts as director was to implement an accelerated music ministry plan to move churches even faster toward their music goals. He began a summer music missionary program and added junior and youth weeks to the music program at Gulfshore Assembly.

More than 100 ministers of music populated the state's churches and Hall tapped them to begin the Mississippi Singing Churchmen, who promoted church music ministry by performing at various events around the state.

Hall placed special emphasis on nurturing future generations of church musicians. He emphasized preschool choirs and started scholarships for young people who rated superior at music festivals.

Like Harrison and Morgan before him, Hall's career took him to the top of the Southern Baptist Convention. When 10,000 voices sang all the way through the new Baptist hymnal at **PrasiSing '75** in Nashville, it was Hall's work on the hymnal committee that helped make it possible.

Sadly, Hall was felled by a heart attack in October 1987.

Louis Graham Smith, 48, was selected to succeed Hall in February 1988, and continues in the job today.

During Smith's tenure, the Mississippi Baptist All State Youth Choir originated in the summer of 1993 with 45 members; 100 members is the goal for the 1995 choir.

Like Harrison, Morgan, and Hall before him, Smith's leadership has been recognized across the Southern Baptist Convention. He was a member of the committee that produced **The Baptist Hymnal** in 1991.

A series of Town and Country music conferences for small-church volunteer and bivocational music directors is coordinated by retired bivocational music minister Jimmy McCaleb.

"Through the first 50-years, our Lord has blessed Mississippi with many gifted people to grow the ministry of music throughout our state," Smith pointed out.

"Our leaders have sought to undergird associations and churches so that their efforts could be multiplied and God praised in a more worthy manner. Our daily prayer is that this is only a prelude to a future that will ever bring glory to our great God as we are empowered by his Holy spirit in 'Sharing the Song of Jesus' in Mississippi and around the world," Smith said.

Thursday, March 16, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Mississippi music milestones

1873	Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain begins Music Department.
1945	Mississippi Baptist Convention Board begins Church Music Department, one of the first in the Southern Baptist Convention. Luther Harrison is hired as first "secretary of church music."
1947	First State Music Leadership Conference is held in Jackson.
1948	Harrison dies in auto accident. W. Claude Morgan fills post on part-time basis.
1951	Morgan assumes full-time directorship of Church Music Department. First statewide music leadership school conducted.
1955	Plans are announced for multiple music weeks at Camp Kittiwake.
1956	William Carey College in Hattiesburg begins Music Department.
1958	First Carol Choir Festival held at Mississippi College.
1959	Mississippi College in Clinton begins music department.
1960	Five weeks of music assemblies fill to capacity at the new Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.
1961	Church Music Department organized at Mississippi Baptist Children's Village in Jackson.
1964	Morgan dies of heart attack. Dan Hall begins work as third director of Church Music Department.
1965	Mississippi Singing Churchmen organize.
1969	Hurricane Camille sweeps away Camp Kittiwake and Gulfshore Assembly, crippling the music week programs.
1970	Approved Music Worker program begins with 35 qualified church musicians.
1977	Hall dies of heart attack.
1978	Graham Smith selected as new church music department director. Gulfshore Assembly reopens after multi-million-dollar building project is completed.
1979	Church Music RFD is published by Church Music Department.
1987	"One Voice" ensemble is started.
1988	The Singing Churchmen travel to South Korea and Hong Kong.
1993	Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir is organized.
1995	Mississippi Baptists mark 50 years of organized church music.

Then and now:

McCaleb looks back through time

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The rest, as they say, is history. McCaleb was soon leading youth revivals around the state, and his involvement with the department deepened with each passing year.

From those days to these days, McCaleb has seen virtually the entire life of the Church Music Department.

"There have been some real giants in Mississippi church music. Next to the Bible, the most important book is the hymnbook. The average Christian knows more about theology from the hymnbook, because people remember hymns," he said.

McCaleb graduated from Mississippi College and received music and education degrees from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. He retired as minister of music at Southside Church, Jackson, in 1990, and continues to serve as a part-time music director at a church near Jackson. He lives in Jackson with wife Ashley, a consultant in the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union department.

He remains active in promoting church music and is determined to help Southern Baptists understand

the fundamentals of hymnology — the study of hymns.

"Once there was consecration (in church music) and now it's all praise with no theology. We ought to praise the Lord, but we must also

have theology and that's in hymns," he explained.

McCaleb, a bivocational music minister for 35 years, puts his words into action.

He has established a trust fund through the

Mississippi Baptist Foundation for bivocational and music corps musicians, and at age 70 is still active in music clinics and workshops across Mississippi and the Southern Baptist Convention.

For the record, he is clear that he doesn't plan on cutting back anytime soon.

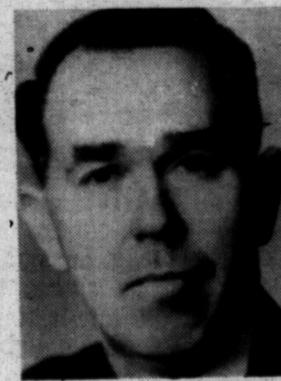
"It's exciting to be plugged into the need for people to be led to Christ through music. My 100th birthday will be in 2024 — a Sunday.

"Without being presumptuous, I've thought about going to be with the Lord on that day, while I'm leading the singing somewhere. I want to die on the upbeat!"

Church Music Department leaders



Harrison 1945-48



Morgan 1948-64



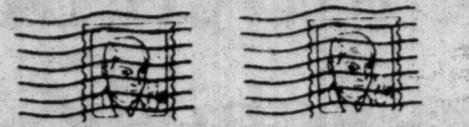
Hall 1964-87



Smith 1988-present



Letters to the editor



Agrees with Jones

Editor:

I read with interest the letter in **The Baptist Record** of Feb. 16 from M.L. Jones. He wrote that he knew of several Southern Baptist churches advertising Super Bowl Sunday. He felt that this was a compromise with secular Sunday activities. I agree.

I know of churches making this compromise. I also know of associational meetings that are being scheduled on Sunday evenings, during the normal Discipleship Training and/or evening worship.

James K. Burke
Waynesboro

Change prime time

Editor:

Television just continues to get worse and worse.

Over a period of one year the networks show 14,313 sex incidents in prime-time alone. This doesn't include the late night programs or the soap operas. A total of 91% of all sex is depicted outside of marriage. Is there any wonder why approximately one-third of all children are born outside marriage?

There are also a total of 8,333 violence incidents and 23,556 profanity incidents in a year of prime time. The total combined sex, violence, and profanity incidents for one year of prime time is 46,202.

Ever wonder why the moral breakdown in our society? Television is a major contributor.

One of the best things a person can do is to write the sponsors. And, of course, join in organized boycotts of companies which refuse to change their practice.

Sometime in the near future, a boycott of one or more of these companies will be called. It is absolutely the best way to change the current situation.

Donald E. Wildmon
American Family Association
Tupelo

"Gay Day" at Disney

Editor:

A group calling itself "Digital Queers" has since 1990 sponsored an event... called "Gay Day at Disney World." This annual event held every first week in June at Disney World in Orlando, Fla., encompasses all sorts of highly visible activities for homosexuals from around the nation.

This "celebration" transforms the world's most popular family resort park into nothing more than a contemporary example of what Sodom and Gomorrah must have been like. The laughing and joy of happy families is replaced by the obscene antics of homosexual and lesbian couples as they take over the once family-friendly resort for a week. Families planning to attend Florida's Disney resorts in

the month of June should beware that any individual complaints to Disney World management [may] be useless....

Any Christian family planning to attend Disney World this coming June should be wary. These incidents are reflective of a growing tide of openness and militancy on the part of homosexuals. Open displays of hostility and violence are commonplace tactics that sodomites use to intimidate and suppress opposing viewpoints. This type of a strong-arm strategy employed by homosexual militants can appropriately be called "family-bashing." Millions of families pass through the Disney resorts annually; if just a small percentage of them contacted Disney management and threatened to take their money elsewhere..., [Disney's] desire to cater to the special interest of [homosexuals] would diminish rapidly.

Florida AFA Chairman David Caton has advised travelers to change their travel plans if Disney World was in their plans. He warns that homosexuals attending the 1995 festivities will be all the more brazen in their displays and activities. Gulf Coast AFA supports this position and urges all local people who are planning an early June trip to the Orlando area to cancel any potential visit to any Disney theme park. We also urge people to let the Disney management know how they feel about

Disney's apparent acceptance of homosexuality! Disney World may be reached at (407) W-DISNEY.

Pete Fiske
Gulf Coast
American Family Association
P.O. Box 308
Ocean Springs, MS 39566

Professional's dream

Editor:

I was pleased to read the article in the Jan. 26 edition of **The Baptist Record** about seeking qualified, credentialed counselors for help for those hurting from the ever-increasing problems of stresses on families and individuals in today's society.

When I returned to Mississippi in 1968 to help start the first Regional Mental Health Center at Tupelo, there were no public psychological or psychiatric services except the two state psychiatric hospitals. Having a trained, experienced, licensed professional to whom a person could choose to go, sit down with, spend a private, confidential session with, a counselor whose behavior was regulated by a set of ethical standards, and by a state board of examiners, was a dream in the hearts of a few of us mental health professionals.

This dream became a reality for

our state, and, now, there are more than 350 Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) who serve in 15 Regional Mental Health Centers, in hospitals, in colleges and universities, on church staffs, in public schools, and in private practices across Mississippi.

One statement in the article seems to need further clarification. The writer said that what differentiates certified pastoral counselors from Christian counselors is that "Christian counseling has no training requirements." The licensing law for the State of Mississippi for counselors states that no one may legally call oneself a counselor without having passed the comprehensive written examination, met the specific requirements of education, experience, and supervision, and having a license. Many of our LPCs are Christians.

Your article was exceedingly encouraging to both pastors and counselors needing such supportive relationships and qualified referral sources. Getting to know each other is a good way to start. A directory of Licensed Professional Counselors is available by writing: Mississippi State Board of Examiners for LPCs, P.O. Drawer 6239, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

June Comola
Carrollton

Southern Baptists exceed WMU's "We Can Help" hunger project goals

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) members across the country issued the call and Southern Baptists responded.

The "call" was for church members to contribute a can of food plus 25 cents to help feed the hungry in their communities. While the food and money collected by a local church would be distributed at its discretion, a national

goal of 1 million cans and \$250,000 was established for the project, called "We Can Help."

Southern Baptists answered the call by contributing a reported 1,023,466 cans of food and \$311,281.90. Of the 28 state WMU offices which have called in a count to WMU, only seven have tagged their report as complete.

"We are ecstatic," said Trudy

Johnson, WMU special projects coordinator. "When the Project HELP: Hunger Task Force first proposed a national goal of 1 million cans and 25 cents per can, I knew it would take all of our 1.2 million members working together with their pastors and church families to make it a reality — and we did it!

"This project has given us a tremendous opportunity to see what we are capable of accomplishing together," Johnson said. "It has encouraged us as we plan future ministry projects.

"It also opens the door for witnessing opportunities as local hunger needs are met," she added. The Kansas-Nebraska WMU reported, for example, three churches started new food banks while another church's collection revived a local food bank that had been drained of its food supply.

Referring to a researcher's conclusion that "WMU may be not only the missions conscience of the SBC, but also its loving heart," Johnson said, "The response to our first national ministry project demonstrates that WMU members are motivated to action by their loving hearts."

A state-by-state tabulation will be released by WMU when totals are complete, Johnson said.

William Carey College sets enrollment record

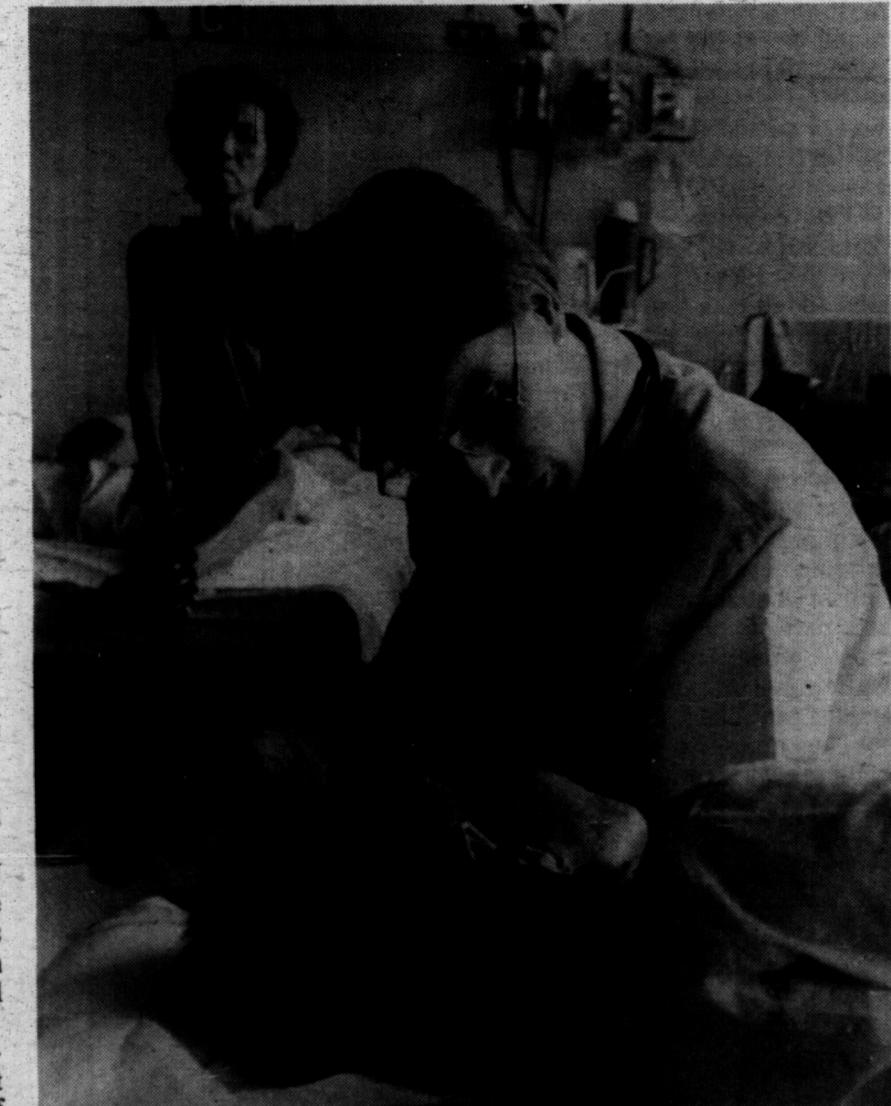
William Carey student enrollment totals 2,073 for the winter 1995 session, a record for William Carey College. The increase is 4.3% higher than 1994 enrollment.

Hattiesburg-based enrollment is up 2.8% and totals 1,090 students. Credit hours are up nearly 4%. The largest increases for Hattiesburg occurred in the new MBA program in Executive Leadership and the M.Ed. programs. Classes for these degrees enrolled 168 students.

The Gulf Coast program of William Carey continued to show record gains. Total enrollment of 614 students reflects an increase of nearly 16% over 1994 results.

According to Coast Vice President Bill Payne, continued growth in teacher education, art, and psychology have paced undergraduate records in Gulfport. Bachelor of general studies and liberal studies offerings at the College's new Keesler Air Force Base teaching center also helped boost the Gulf Coast student enrollment results.

Enrollment in nursing and pre-nursing in New Orleans is 369 students, a decrease of 7% over the record totals registered in 1994. William Carey also offers nursing programs in Hattiesburg and Gulfport and has one of the largest Schools of Nursing in the region.



MEDICAL MISSIONS IMPERATIVE — Overseas requests for medical missionaries are at a 10-year high, but few of those needs are being met. Only eight Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board medical missionaries went overseas in 1994, barely one-tenth of the number requested. Medical missionaries play a strategic role in foreign missions strategy — a role increasing in importance as more countries admit only professionals who can assist in national development. Above, missionary Dr. Douglas Derbyshire of Chandler, Ariz., makes morning rounds at the Baptist hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

SBC state leaders react to pending restructure plan

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) was enthusiastic in its recent approval of the restructure plan for the Convention. During its February meeting, the committee's vote was 64 to 3 in favor of recommending the plan to the June meeting of the SBC in Atlanta.

William T. Neal III, editor of **The Christian Index** (Georgia), said the proposal itself has merit. He declared it "unreasonable to expect a perfect plan that pleases everybody. With proper fine tuning and interpretation," the plan has the potential for serving Southern Baptists well in the years ahead, said Neal.

Word and Way editor, Bob Terry (Missouri), deplored the timing of the report, declaring the upcoming convention was supposed to be a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the SBC. "It was to be a healing time but the Program and Structure Committee report changed all that." Terry said the report contains some creative proposals though they are described only in the broadest terms. Concern was expressed over the lack of involvement of the trustees and administrators of various entities.

Don Wideman, Missouri executive director, referred to it as "drastic changes" in organization and said, "We can be sure we will be required to do more by ourselves

without the help from the Home Mission Board. It is clear that our state conventions must become more self-supporting."

Presnall Wood, editor, **The Baptist Standard** (Texas), said the report raises many questions: Will the proposals lead state conventions to be less cooperative with the SBC, resulting in states by necessity keeping more of the mission dollar to do mission work? Will such a plan place more leadership and power in the hands of fewer people in a time when some believe exclusivism is hurting the work of the SBC? Why is the SBC executive committee upgraded rather than downsized? Baptists will need more time to understand all of the implications, declared Wood.

Joy Fenner, Texas' WMU executive director, said, "It is interesting that in a day of intentional networking — often through covenant agreements — the one entity that for more than 100 years has called individuals and churches to learn about, pray for, and give to Southern Baptist missions was not acknowledged as a full partner. The missions commitment and contributions of WMU were apparently neither known nor valued by those adopting the report."

Marv Knox, editor of the **Western Recorder** (Kentucky), said, "Despite several obvious benefits, the reorganization plan is hampered by serious questions and major flaws. When the plan came before the executive committee, it was presented in an all-or-nothing format. For the sake of the convention, the study committee and the executive committee should divide the proposal into component parts and allow messengers to the annual meeting to vote on it piece by piece. That would give grassroots Southern Baptists an opportunity to approve the good and eliminate the bad in this historic proposal."

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The (South Carolina) **Baptist Courier** editor, John E. Roberts, said: "Most of the recommendations are good, but with one major mistake. The reorganization is expected to be approved without encountering much opposition. The following observations are based on that assumption. Most changes will result in operation strengthened and dollars saved. That is good. But there is an offsetting price of tightened controls and centralized authority, things Baptists historically oppose."

Charles Sullivan, executive director for Indiana, said: "It is my personal opinion that the changes recommended are positive and will greatly enhance our work from 2000 forward. Let's go to the convention in Atlanta to vote for the next generation rather than to support the status quo and past generations."

R.G. Puckett of North Carolina's **Biblical Recorder**, in an editorial entitled "A reformation or demolition?", wrote: "It is driven by a monolithic mind-set and money, much of the former and less and less of the latter. Despite the denials, the new system is even more a pyramid than the past; that is hardly Baptistic. It may provide the efficiency of an IBM, a General Motors, or a General Electric, but it is not a free church in a denomination that is absolutely dependent upon cooperation."

The (Virginia) **Religious Herald** editor, Mike Clingenpeel, said: "Depending upon who was talking last week in the corridors of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee building in Nashville, the SBC reorganization plan either was handed down from a mountain on tablets of stone or bubbled up from the caverns of hell. The truth lies somewhere in between. But the theological wrapping cannot hide the reality that this is a 'rightsizing' of our denominational bureaucracy, a corporate facelift. It is a makeover of the SBC infrastructure for the Third Millennium."

William G. Tanner, executive director for Oklahoma Baptists, said he is pleased with the reorganization plan. "It is very well-focused, forward-thinking design. If we are serious about moving toward the 21st century, the suggestions they have made are very valid. The SBC will not be the same ever again," he said.

Homecomings

Holly Springs (Lincoln): March 19; services, 11 a.m.; noon lunch; special music at 1 p.m. featuring Obadiah; A. Hilton Lane, speaker; Esther Martin, music; Glenn McInnis, pastor.

Puckett (Rankin): April 23; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; Alvin Doyle, guest speaker; Barry Ward, pastor.



Season for "Annie" offering

Home missionaries Charles (left) and Laura Lea Chamblee (middle right) talk with members of the Franklin, Mass., church where Charles is pastor. From pasta parties to drama teams, they use creative outreach and ministries to reach neighbors unfamiliar with the gospel. The Chamblees were spotlighted during the March 5-12 Week of Prayer for Home Missions. The week began the season of emphasis for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. (Photo by Mark Sandlin)

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the Jan. 5 issue of **The Baptist Record**: Northwest: Center Hill; Rankin: Providence; and Union County: Hillcrest.

You are invited to participate in a celebration honoring our Lord for his gift of 50 years of organized Church Music in Mississippi



Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton
March 25, 1995 • 2:00-4:30 p.m.

FEATURES

Christine Anderson
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Mass Orchestra
Lloyd Mims, Director

Mass Choir

Mississippi Singing Churchmen

Joseph Martin
Concert Pianist

William J. Reynolds
Former Church Music Dept.
Director, BSSB
Editor Baptist Hymnal, 1975

One Voice
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Historical sketches of first 50 years of organized Church Music in Mississippi



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Just for the Record

First Church of Black Forest, Colorado Springs, Colo., seeks a bivocational associate pastor of music/worship. Send resumes by March 31 to: 10915 Black Forest Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80908.

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, will host a "Power Encounter," March 24-26. The seminar will be led by Jennifer Kennedy Dean, from her book, **The Praying Life: Living Beyond Your Limits.** Session times will be: Friday, 6:30-9 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.; and Sunday, 10:45 a.m. worship. Deaf interpretation and nursery will be provided. To register or for more information, call the church at (601) 981-1411.

The Gospel Messengers, singing group of Florence, has recently signed a recording contract with Mountain Top Records of Cleveland, Tenn. Their first album with the company is titled, "Built on Rock," and was released in February.

First Church, Ridgeland, will host Alvin and Mary Doyle, foreign missionaries on furlough from Nigeria, West Africa, to speak on March 19 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. He is a former staff member at First Church and was pastor of First Church, Puckett.

Calvary Church, Durant, will feature the Howards from Kosciusko at a gospel singing on March 18 at 7 p.m.

Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc, will host a lay renewal weekend March 24-26. James A. Lewis is pastor.

Central Baptist Theological Seminary seeks candidates to fill two positions. The first is a faculty position in homiletics beginning fall 1995. Candidates are required to have leadership skills, experience in both church and classroom, and hold a doctor's degree (Ph.D., Th.D., D.Min.). Send curriculum vitae to Dean Russel A. Jones. The second position is vice president for business affairs.

Lottie Moon Gifts

Booneville Church, Booneville, exceeded its goal of \$20,000. The total amount was \$20,314.35, which was the largest amount received in the history of the church. Paul Brown is interim pastor.

Cedar Grove, Leakesville, received a total amount of \$1,224.14. This was the largest amount ever received and exceeded the goal of \$1,000. The GAs encouraged participation in giving with a visual display of a "Rainbow of God's Treasures." S.L. Williamson is pastor.

Qualifications include a bachelor's degree and five years experience in accounting, business, finance, or related field. Candidates should submit a letter of application, a resume, and at least three letters of reference to Thomas E. Clifton, president. The address is 741 N. 31st Street, Kansas City, KS 66102.

International Student Exchange, Inc. (ISE), presently

seeks host families for students from a number of different countries. Students between the ages of 15 and 18 are carefully screened by ISE for suitability. They bring their own spending money and are covered by health insurance. These students speak English and are anxious to share their native culture with an American family. Call to learn more about ISE's student programs, or to become an area representative.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumboer, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

My preteenage children refuse to visit their grandmother in the nursing home. Should I use my parental authority to force them to go?

Before exercising your parental authority, find out what it is about the nursing home that bothers your preteens. (Keep in mind preteens are bothered by a lot of things anyway.) They may not be bothered as much by their grandmother as they are by just being in the nursing home. What are their feelings about their grandmother? Are they fearful of the nursing home? Do they think the nursing home isn't "cool"? Is it "creepy" to them because of the presence of so many older people? By respecting their concerns, you can enlist them in finding alternatives that will allow them to keep in touch with their grandmother. They can telephone her once a week. They can send a card, maybe even a homemade one. They can bake cookies or buy a gift and send it with you on your next visit. Give them time to accept that they may never again see grandmother as they remember her. They are learning valuable lessons about life, death, aging, and decision-making — skills of which they have no con-

cept at their age. Forcing them to go to the nursing home may create resentment toward you rather than establishing the solution you seek to this problem.

I have no joy in my Christian life. I always feel so negative. How can I become more joyful and positive?

Joy is an inner condition, while happiness is based on our circumstances. Scripture tells us, "...the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8:10, NIV). Are you certain that you lack joy, or are you unhappy with your circumstances? We become negative when we focus on our circumstances because many things around us are hurtful, sad, or inconsistent. If we keep our eyes on the Lord and study his Word, we find hope and peace. A Christian's life is a continuing process of learning the ups and downs of normal existence. We are not promised an easy life as Christians but we are promised, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Josh. 1:5, NIV). We become more joyful and positive when we choose to see God in all things and realize that he is walking with us during difficult times as well as good times.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



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Revival Dates

Midway, Newton: March 17-19; Youth emphasis; Tom Prather, Clinton, evangelist; Kimberly Edmonds, Lake, music; Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Wayne Miley, pastor.

Forest (Scott): March 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Stan Fornea, Clinton, evangelist; Bill Bacon, Clinton, music; S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, pastor.

First, Tunica: March 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., services at noon (with lunch) and 7 p.m.; Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, evangelist; David Tinsley, Clarksdale, music; Joe T. Lusby, pastor.

Ruth (Lincoln): March 19-22; Sunday, lunch served following morning service; Barry Cutrer, evangelist; Phillip Alford, music; Jimmy Houston, pastor.

Short Creek (Yazoo): March 19-21; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish dinner at noon, and 1:30 p.m. singing; no night service; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; Mike Routen, evangelist; Norris Ables, pastor.

Holcomb (Grenada): youth revival March 17-19; 7 p.m. nightly; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Dennis McKay, Greenwood, evangelist;

Bobby Irvin, Holcomb, music; Randy Ashley, pastor.

Mt. Zion, Florence: March 19-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; noon dinner; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Scott Thomas, Knoxville, Tenn., evangelist; Jamie Hayes, Florence, music; Sandy Sartor, Pearl, special guest: Tommy Buskin, pastor.

New Providence, Derma: March 19-22; "Here's Hope" simultaneous revival; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Ramage, Vardaman, evangelist; Janet Ramage, Vardaman, music; Rex Ard, pastor.

East Mt. Zion, Baldwyn: March 19-24; 7 p.m. nightly; Bert Harper, Tupelo, evangelist; Gerald Waldrup, Randolph, music; Gerald Cagle, pastor.

Antioch, Leakesville: March 19-22; "Here's Hope" harvest revival; Sunday, 11 a.m. and noon meal; 7 nightly; John W. Henry, DOM, George and Green counties, evangelist; Bill Ricks, Leakesville; Kenneth McLendon, pastor.

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Staff Changes

John Brock has resigned as pastor of First Church, Pearl, and accepted the Emmanuel Church of Pine Bluff, Ark.

George D. (Billy) Credille accepted the pastorate of Old-town Church effective Dec. 18. His previous place of service was Pilgrims Rest Church, Panola County. He also served churches in Prentiss and Tishomingo counties.

New Prospect Church, Leake County, has called James Warren as pastor.

Philip Smith has accepted the pastorate of State Boulevard

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Church, Meridian. He previously served Morningside Church, Shreveport, La.

Billy Brumfield resigned Rolling Creek Church, Clarke County, to become pastor at Immanuel Church, Vicksburg, effective March 12.

Roy Garrison of Pine Hill has retired from the active pastorate. He is available for pulpit supply. Call (601) 482-5383.

SBC registration cards

Registration cards for the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga., on June 20-22 are available from the office of Bill Causey, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive director-treasurer. For more information, call (800) 748-1651, or (601) 968-3800, ext. 3801.

Thursday, March 16, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News

Danny R. Rutland, of Clinton, has been named executive director of development at Mississippi College. He assumed the position March 15. Rutland was formerly Director of Development and Trust Executive Vice President at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Rutland



Mississippi College in 1976. Rutland was regional development director for Golden Gate Seminary from 1986-1989 and director of publications for development at Reformed Theological Seminary from 1983-1986.

Doug Mitchell was ordained to the deacon ministry at Kossuth Church in Alcorn County. His father, Gary D. Mitchell, is currently serving as chairman of the deacons. Kevin Wallace is pastor. Mitchell



Pauline Moore was recently recognized by First Church, Kosciusko, upon the occasion of her 20th anniversary as organist. At the morning service on Feb. 5, Warren Ferguson, chairman of the personnel committee, presented her with a Gorham crystal bowl. Following the evening service, Moore was honored with a reception. Faye Wiggers is minister of music and Barry Corbett is pastor.

Aubrey Moore, retired pastor and a member of First Church, Batesville, has spearheaded a campaign through his weekly Bible

class to reach the needy in Central America. Over 4,400 Spanish Bibles have been sent to the mission field in Honduras. The Bibles are distributed by Christians from Batesville participating on evangelistic medical teams. Outreach has not been limited to Bibles alone. Generators, sound systems, musical instruments, and public address systems have been sent. For more information write Tim Robertson, First Baptist Church, 104-108 Panola Ave., Batesville, MS 38606 or call (601) 563-7655.

First Church, Cleveland, on Feb. 26 honored **Billie Breland** for 40 years as librarian. She was presented a plaque, and members purchased books to be presented to the library as a part of Librarian Appreciation Day.



Emmanuel Church, Grenada, on Jan. 15 surprised **Clarence J. Cooper Jr.** with a special Pastor Appreciation Day to mark the beginning of his 10th year as pastor of Emmanuel Church, and the beginning of his 25th year in the ministry. He and his wife, Darlene, were presented an all-expense-paid trip to the Holy Land to be taken later this year.

DALLAS (BP) — Texas Baptists have tapped a former state convention president and veteran pastor to tackle the problem of churches firing their ministers. At its March 7 meeting in Dallas, the convention's executive board elected **James R. "Dick" Maples**, pastor of First Church, Bryan, for 16 years, as coordinator of the new office of minister/church relations. Before becoming pastor of First Church, Bryan, Maples served churches in Texas City, El Paso, and Abilene, Texas; and Waynesville, N.C. He earned the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi College, Clinton.

Robby Sutton of Brandon and **Ellen Holden** of Granbury, Texas, both music majors at Mississippi College, will present their combined senior voice recital on

March 20 at 3 p.m. in Aven Hall Auditorium on the MC campus. Both are students of Gerald Claxton. The recital is free.



Amy Nash (right), daughter of Sandra and Ben Nash of Clinton, has been named recipient of the Suzanne Nobles Memorial Scholarship at Mississippi College for the 1994-1995 school year. The scholarship was established in 1973 by Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Nobles, along with their daughter, Sandra Nash, to honor their daughter and sister, Suzanne, killed in an accident at age 15. The scholarship is presented to the most outstanding young woman of the freshman class. Pictured with Nash is Howell W. Todd, president of Mississippi College.



Tucker's Crossing Church, Laurel, recently celebrated **Lorrie Tanner's** 15th anniversary as music director. Eddie Bryant, pastor, presented her with a love gift from the church and a certificate commemorating her years of service. At a reception following the service, additional gifts were presented to Tanner and the choir performed a song written especially for her.



Louis Perkins (left) was recognized for his 23 years of service as advisor for the Baptist Student Union at Hinds Community College. He is a member of First Church, Raymond. **Jeff Powell** (right), is BSU director at Hinds.

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Uniform Resisting temptation



By Greg Potts
1 Corinthians 10

It happens every fall — a highly ranked collegiate football team is “upset” by a team that is not as highly ranked. Many times, the reason for this is over-confidence. The higher ranked team believes what is said about it and begins believing they cannot be beaten. In preparation for a team that is not supposed to be nearly as talented, they feel that little effort will be needed. The result: they are beaten because they are over-confident.

Is it possible to be over-confident as a Christian? Paul said it was. He dealt with that in this text. Many of the Christians in Corinth were trying to live the Christian life while keeping one foot in the world. They wanted to continue eating meat that had been offered to pagan idols. The problem was that many of the newer Christians were not mature enough to understand that food could not harm them. Paul knew there was nothing wrong with the meat, but if it offended anyone, he felt it best to abstain.

This was the counsel he gave the Corinthians. He went on to remind them of the plight of the Israelites in their wilderness wanderings. They, too, had become over-confident and were punished. Paul did not want the same thing to happen to the Corinthians.

Paul is dealing with something every Christian confronts — temptation. How do we live the Christian life and abstain from things that could harm our Christian witness? Paul tells us how in this text.

The woes of Israel (vv. 1-6). Paul reminded the Corinthian Christians of the problems Israel confronted in their wilderness wanderings. Paul's use of the Old Testament in this section of Scripture is an example of the typological method of biblical interpretation. In typology, forewarnings of future events are found in the history of Israel. For example, the church in the wilderness in the Old Testament is a type of the church at Corinth. The exodus from Egypt is God's act for the salvation of Israel (*Broadman Bible Commentary*, vol. 10, p. 346).

Paul says that just as Israel was punished for a lack of faithfulness by wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, the Corinthians could face the same fate. The same is true for every Christian. Most of us have heard of someone falling in the Christian life and have responded, “That will never happen to me.” Well, it can happen to anyone. We are reminded of the woes of Israel as proof.

The warning of the Lord (v. 12). Paul says, “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.” This is a direct warning not to become overconfident. Paul reminds the Corinthians that the woes of Israel were recorded so that other generations would not repeat their mistakes.

This reminds us of one of the most important things in resisting temptation — Bible study. The psalmist said, “Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee” (Psa. 119:11). The Bible tells us that when our Lord was tempted, he resisted all three temptations by quoting Scripture (Matt. 4:1-11).

If you are having difficulty resisting temptation, it may be because you are not studying God's word with regularity. Why not begin this Sunday by joining a Bible study class in your church? Paul reminds us of the warning of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord (v. 13). This verse is a great word of encouragement for all Christians. Paul assures us that we will never encounter any type of temptation that cannot be handled through the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul speaks of a “way of escape.” The word that is translated escape means “a way out of defile, a mountain pass.”

The idea is of an army that is apparently surrounded and then finds a mountain pass through which to escape (Barclay, *The Letters to the Corinthians*, p. 90). Thus, God helps us to deal with temptation. What area of life are you struggling with? Remember, no one is too great a Christian to stumble. Stay in God's Word to help you resist the temptation and trust the Lord.

James offers some great advice on resisting temptation. He says, “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Draw near to God today!

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book Jerusalem's fall



By Sylvia Fleming
Jeremiah 37-45

Jeremiah lived during the period in which the city of Jerusalem was being destroyed. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, had the city under siege. However, he stopped the siege because of the threat Egypt posed. That withdrawal is detailed in Chapters 37-38. Jeremiah attempted to leave the city, due to his mental and physical exhaustion. He was arrested for desertion and placed in a dungeon.

At that time Zedekiah was king of Judah and continued Jehoiakim's evil practices. Zedekiah brought both Judah and Jerusalem into terrific danger. He made things even worse by rebelling against Nebuchadnezzar. Because Zedekiah wanted a word from the Lord, he agreed to have the prophet Jeremiah moved from the dungeon to a less offensive prison. The princes, however, threw Jeremiah into a filthy pit of muck and mire where he would have drowned had it not been for the intervention of an Ethiopian eunuch, Ebed-melech. Zedekiah changed his mind once again.

Zedekiah was a weak low-life whose mind changed every time the wind changed. Privately, he was sympathetic to Jeremiah, but was too weak to stand up to the princes — court officials.

Once again, Zedekiah sought the advice of Jeremiah. However, each time the king asked for advice, it was for a very selfish reason. Having learned from his past experiences, Jeremiah bargained for his own life before he agreed. He then advised Zedekiah to save Jerusalem and his own life by surrendering.

At the end of the siege, Zedekiah and his troops escaped at night, but the Chaldeans overtook them. They took the captured king to their headquarters. While Zedekiah watched, they murdered his sons, put out his eyes, shackled him, then took him to Babylon as a captive. One must always obey God or suffer the consequences.

Johanan, one of the remnant who submitted to Gedaliah (Nebuchadnezzar's governor) and tried to warn him of an assassination, but the governor refused to believe Johanan. After Ishmael assassinated the governor, Johanan tried to avenge his death, but was unable to do so. Because he so feared Nebuchadnezzar as a result of the death, he took his men and hid near Bethlehem. Due to their frightening situation, they asked Jeremiah to intercede for them with God. They needed godly guidance regarding their course of action. They promised that they would obey God and stay in the center of his will. God answered their plea and told them to remain in their land and he would be by their sides, and they would not have to fear Nebuchadnezzar. They had planned to flee to Egypt but were instructed not to do so. If they were to go to Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar would invade Egypt, and they would die by his sword, starvation, or a terrible disease. There would be no survivors.

Jeremiah delivered the Word from the Lord, and the very people who had promised to follow God renged. They even accused Jeremiah of having lied to them. Thus, they refused God's guidance and his will, and then fled to Egypt. Not only did they flee, but they also forced Jeremiah and Baruch to go with them. Those people fled to a land from whence God had once delivered them. They hoped to flee the sword, famine, and pestilence, but in doing so, they completely brought themselves into disobedient circumstances that would cause God to turn his face from them.

It is always wise to realize that if God has the power to keep one from hell, that he certainly has the power to take care of any devilishly, worldly circumstances that might befall someone. Stand firm and realize that “... greater is he that is in... [me], than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work Challenge to commitment



By Michael Johnson
Mark 12

What is most important in your life? The single answer to this question for many is “me!” Others might indicate that family occupies a prime position in daily living. Church and business are some of the institutions that others would list as priority. These answers are only partially correct. There are really several things to which we should be committed.

How important are taxes? We are now less than a month away from the infamous April 15 deadline. While no one may enjoy paying taxes, all of us no doubt enjoy the vast benefits of living in a society that provides so much to its citizens. We cannot therefore enjoy just the good things and opt out of the responsibilities.

Jesus' enemies approach him with a question of tax payment as a means to entrap him. In their way of thinking, if Jesus endorses the government's right to tax he would lose the support of the people. On the other hand, if Jesus opposed the payment of taxes they could then report him to the officials as a traitor.

Taxes aren't ultimately important. Jesus asks for a coin (interestingly he did not have one of his own) and shows that the people had already settled this question. By accepting the legal tender of the day (which had the emperor's image engraved) the people had already acknowledged the authority of the state in their lives and there was a responsibility which followed. There is a limit, however.

E.A. Abbot suggests that Jesus' response could be understood as indicating that the coin belonged to Caesar because it had his image stamped on it. Man, however, has the image of God stamped upon him and therefore belongs to God! As long as the state remains within its boundaries the individual should be bound to give the appropriate loyalty and service. Ultimately, however, the state and man belong to God and whenever the interests of both conflict, loyalty to God should come first.

We might assume theoretically as Americans this should never be a problem since our system dictates that the individual citizen ultimately directs the affairs of government. Would it therefore not follow that if each Christian would be responsible to both God and the state, the state would always be following the dictates of God?

What is ultimately important? Jesus is asked this very question which was heavily debated in the rabbinic schools. The oral tradition had added hundreds of laws and stipulations and there was forever a tendency to summarize the essence of the law into one command. Asked by a young scholar, it is also representative of a question that has been asked by every person who has sought meaning in his life.

Love for God is ultimately important. Jesus' answer was not a new one to his audience. Quoting Deuteronomy 6:4, known as the Shema, it was familiar to every Jewish man, woman, and child. These were the first words that were said by every devout Jew on awakening in the morning and the last words said before sleeping. These words were echoed in the synagogues and in the temple. These words were also found strapped on the priests' arms and headbands and were also embedded in the door frames of every Jewish home.

Love for others is important, too. Jesus did not stop with one verse, but added a second one which was also familiar to his audience, Leviticus 19:18. No teacher before had put these two statements together and here we see a complete picture of what should be of ultimate importance in our life. (It is also interesting to see that Jesus summarizes the Ten Commandments in these two verses: relationship with God [1-4] and relationship with man [5-10].)

First we have to be at peace with ourselves. Out of this self-acceptance we will be able to embrace those around us. When we live in harmony with others we have honored God and can therefore live in proper relationship with him. Out of this vertical and horizontal dimension of relationship living we can then move forward in service to our community and state. We return to the truth that we have been created in God's image and for the purpose of living in relationship with him. It is out of this basic relationship that we discover the joy and fulfillment of living at all other levels.

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.

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Rev. J. D. Batson
Allan, Ladell & Will Kraft
Mrs. Beanne
Mr. & Mrs. Dan W. Southerland Jr.
Mrs. Maude Allen Beckham
Mr. & Mrs. David Cotton Foster
John Gray Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Neel
Lewis Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Evans
Clay Benjamin
Mr. & Mrs. Joel L. Hale
Henry Clay Benjamin
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Wagner
Lee Will Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Dugas



Janice Baptist Church representatives Elizabeth Wilson (left), and Maria Morrow (right) display can goods with quarters attached to the top, their church donated to The Baptist Children's Village.



Sue Kittrell (left) and Loyce Bell (right) from Calvary Baptist Church, New Augusta, display cans and quarters their church donated.

Quarters from the 376 cans donated by the two churches totaled \$94.00.



Rev. & Mrs. Norman (Mayme) Crochet, Child Care Workers on our India Nunnery Campus, recently received their 5-year service pin. Norman and Mayme currently care for girls in extended care. They have, however, ministered in numerous areas of The Baptist Children's Village ministry.

Mr. R. W. Black
Mrs. Bryan D. Stringer
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Weems
Mrs. Madge Black
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Black Jr.
R. W. Black

Mrs. Dorothy M. Terry
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Blackwelder
Mr. Charles Blass
Mrs. Ada M. Sunrall

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Southerland
Mr. Charles Blass
Mrs. Ada M. Sunrall

(to be continued)

Capsules

THREE EVANGELICAL SCHOLARS ACCEPT COMMENTARY WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: NASHVILLE (BP) — Three evangelical scholars have accepted writing assignments for *The New American Commentary* published by Broadman & Holman Publishers, a division of the Baptist Sunday School Board, according to Charles A. Wilson, B&H publisher. Douglas Stuart, professor of Old Testament at Gordon-Conwell Seminary, South Hamilton, Mass., will write the commentary on Exodus. He replaces the late T.V. Farris, a professor at Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, who died in 1993. Stuart is best known for his work on methods of biblical interpretation, Wilson said. He has written *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth* and *Old Testament Exegesis*. David M. Howard Jr., associate professor of Old Testament and Semitic languages at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Ill., will write the volume on Joshua, replacing Steven Wyrick whose manuscript was withdrawn by mutual agreement between Wyrick and Broadman & Holman. Howard has written *An Introduction to Old Testament History Books* and serves as book review editor of *The Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*. He also has served as a visiting professor at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. David M. Garland, Ernest and Mildred Hogan professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will write the volume on 2 Corinthians. He replaces Richard Land who switched to writing the volume on 1, 2, 3 John when Joel Gregory, former pastor of First Church, Dallas, resigned. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, will co-author the volume with Daniel Akin, assistant professor of Christian theology at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

STATE HISTORIANS PROTEST PLAN TO NIX HISTORICAL COMMISSION: FORT WORTH (ABP) — A group of Southern Baptist historians is protesting the plan to eliminate the Historical Commission, saying the move would hurt the study of history among Baptists. The Historical Commission, based in Nashville, is slated to be eliminated in a massive downsizing and restructuring approved by the Executive Committee Feb. 21. Fifteen state Baptist historical directors from 11 states signed a statement released March 1 objecting to parts of the plan, which will take two years to enact and will reduce the number of SBC agencies from 19 to 12. Lynn May, executive director of the commission, is the only agency head to protest the reorganization, drafted by a blue-ribbon Program and Structure Study Committee. The plan, which would eliminate the commission and distribute some of its duties to other agencies, would not give historical studies their proper priority in Baptist life, May said.

MEDICAL MISSIONS NEEDS ON FMB'S CRITICAL LIST: RICHMOND (BP) — Medical missionaries are needed more than ever, but fewer health care professionals are making it to fields of overseas service. Requests for medical professionals on Southern Baptist foreign mission fields hit a 10-year high of 72 this year — the third year of dramatically higher requests and twice the number of 1992. But only eight medical missionaries went overseas in 1994, barely one-tenth the number requested. Three went in 1993 in response to 65 requests. "So few medical candidates are in process that if things don't pick up, we'll have critical needs unmet," said Jim Riddell, associate director of the Foreign Mission Board's Personnel Selection Department. "Christian health care professionals can be in places where we never could get an evangelist," said Van Williams, a physician who directs the FMB's Missionary Health Department. "They not only enjoy the satisfaction of caring for hurting people when others don't, but knowing their witness to God's love — in word and deed — may be the only one many will ever hear." (See photo on page 6).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CROSSOVER ATLANTA: ATLANTA (BP) — With Crossover Atlanta three months away, organizers are praying for 1,000 out-of-town volunteers and 1,000 people to make professions of faith in Jesus Christ. Crossover is the evangelism emphasis preceding the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Last year, 811 people made professions of faith during Crossover activities. Volunteers are needed to help with block parties, street evangelism, and door-to-door witnessing, said Don Smith, associate director of evangelism for the Baptist Convention of Georgia. To participate, contact the Evangelism Department of the Baptist Convention of Georgia, 2930 Flowers Road South, Atlanta, GA 30341-5562 or (404) 936-5233.

RTVC REPORTS RESPONSE TO COUNSELING MINISTRY: FORT WORTH — A report released by the Radio and Television Commission (RTVC) states that more than 27,000 individuals (513 from Mississippi) contacted the RTVC's counseling ministry during 1994 inquiring about spiritual help. Through its radio and television ministries, the RTVC proclaims the gospel to an estimated 223 million people. Telephone counseling is offered during three television programs aired on ACTS (American Christian Television System) and FamilyNet. Viewers are invited to call a toll-free number for spiritual guidance. In addition, correspondence counseling is offered on five radio programs produced by the RTVC including Powerline, MasterControl, On Track, The Baptist Hour, and Country Crossroads. The Commission maintains a permanent staff of three correspondence counselors who receive and answer an average of 450 letters a month.

Annuity Board relief program helped by increase in gifts over three years

DALLAS (BP) — Retirement and relief benefits paid by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention rose 18% in 1994, to \$166 million. The future of the board's relief ministry was enhanced by gifts and commitments that totaled \$8,824,473 over the last three years.

Those were among the reports given to the agency's trustees during their Feb. 27-28 meeting in Dallas.

Harold D. Richardson, the board's treasurer, showed graphs that demonstrated steady growth in enrollments, contributions, and benefits paid. Contributions to participants' accounts reached \$238.5 million. Total assets remained essentially flat for the past year at \$4.402 billion due to financial markets that suffered losses in both stocks and bonds.

Annualized earnings for the board's three investment funds were 5.72% for the Fixed Fund, a loss of 0.98% for the Variable Fund, and a loss of 2.51% for the Balanced Fund.

In his report to trustees, John R. Jones, who heads the board's investment program, said 1994 was the first time in 20 years when both the bond and stock markets ended in a negative earnings position.

Despite the 1994 figures, 10-year average returns for the three Annuity Board funds are 8.87% for the Fixed Fund, 10.57% for the Balanced Fund, and 12.04% for the Variable Fund.

Annuity Board President Paul W. Powell presented his annual report and told trustees of ongoing conversations with the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. He reported the Executive Committee recommendation to the Convention that the Annuity Board be granted a 3% increase in its Cooperative Program allocation for the 1995-96 fiscal year.

Powell said the expected \$1,077,994 would be supplemented by \$100,000 from earnings on the board's Retired Ministers Support Fund. The latter fund is raised by the board's endowment department to supplement inadequate or non-existent retirement benefits of ministers and their widows.

All Cooperative Program funds from the Southern Baptist Convention received by the Annuity Board are spent in relief ministry, and all operating expense of the board is paid from earnings on assets.

Also in his report, Powell noted retirement benefits paid totaled \$164.38 million, with 25,948 per-

sons receiving benefits on Dec. 31. In the past year, 3,885 new benefits were established. The average age of 3,096 retirees was 64. There were 94 people retiring on disability (average age of 53) and 683 survivor benefits were established. Twelve new education benefits were established for surviving children.

Relief benefits of \$1,097,550 were paid to 502 individuals or couples in 1994, with most of the money going to retired ministers or their widows who receive no annual benefit. Another 1,497 people were receiving an extra \$50 every month, paid from the board's Adopt An Annuitant program. This program paid out a total of \$874,645 during the year.

The relief committee of the board considered 37 new relief requests. Trustees approved 22 two-year monthly grants, one eight-month monthly grant, four two-year expense grants, and a single one-time grant. Ten requests were declined for being outside guidelines. A one-time emergency grant of \$2,000 was paid to a flood victim in Georgia.

The next meeting of the Annuity Board trustees will be July 31-Aug. 1 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Trinity Church, Transformed Life begin new joint counseling ministry

Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven, and Danny Ketchum, director of Christian Education for Transformed Life Treatment Center of Eastwood Hospital in Memphis, have announced the beginning of a joint counseling ministry.

The purpose of this joint ministry is to provide the people of DeSoto County access to distinctively Christian professional counseling and mental health services.

"Many churches have pastoral counseling, but no church to our knowledge provides professional, medical, mental health counseling from a Christian perspective," said Butler of the ministry. "Many Christians who need help with marital problems, family issues, depression, anxiety, or serious mental issues are reluctant

to go to counseling."

The concept of a joint ministry between Trinity Church and Transformed Life grew out of a series of meetings between Butler and Ketchum. Ketchum heard Butler talking about the needs of people and the shortage of Christian counselors in DeSoto County. He initiated the idea of combining the resources of the hospital and church. After months of prayer and planning, the ministry celebrated its grand opening at Trinity Church on March 10.

Eastwood Hospital has offered treatment in the field of mental health and counseling for many years. Melvin Levitch, medical director for Transformed Life, is a psychiatrist, Christian, and member of Bellevue Church, Cordova (a suburb of Memphis).

Levitch's professional staff at

Transformed Life are also evangelical Christians. Greg Hughes, Transformed Life unit director, gives leadership to the inpatient program. Tonia Long, outpatient therapist, will be located at Trinity Church for those who need outpatient counseling.

Lee Simpson, CEO of Eastwood Hospital, supports this joint ministry as an effort to expand the services of the hospital and bring needed counseling help to the people of DeSoto County.

For more information about this counseling ministry call Austin Moore, assistant pastor at Trinity Church, (601) 349-3333.

Bibliocipher

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R DWH IWRKL DRYV LBO RX YVF YFGTKF
YFWAVRXU, WXI LF YBBC GF XBY: POY YVF HASRT-
YOSFH GOHY PF EOKERKKFI.

GWSC EBOSYFFX: EBSYL-XRXF

This week's clue: Y equals T.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Two: Forty-Nine.

Baptist Record

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Ma

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